

ABILENE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Year in Review; Biased Based Policing Report-2015



GET BEHIND THE APD SHIELD



Stan Standridge
Chief of Police
450 Pecan St.
Abilene, Texas
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The Abilene Police Department is committed to the safety of Abilene and its many visitors. The men and women of the Department are thankful to call Abilene home, where we work alongside the community to accomplish the City's Mission Statement – *We work together to build a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.* This report is in furtherance of our mission and is intended to keep our citizens and City Council informed about their police department.

This report provides information relating to 2015 as well as the mandatory biased based policing report that was filed with the Texas Commission On Law Enforcement on January 11, 2016.



SERVICE

2015 Year in Review

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City of Abilene

Value Statements

Team Spirit

We work together to promote a sense of pride and belonging by recognizing the importance of communication, cooperation and commitment in relationships with our customers.

Continuous Improvement

We strive for quality through innovation and resourcefulness.

Responsiveness

We empower our employees to provide exceptional and timely service.

Integrity

We demonstrate accountability through a strong work ethic, professionalism and trust.

Individual Worth

We respect everyone, honor diversity and provide for opportunity for growth.





A Message From Chief Standridge

To The Citizens of Abilene:

In an effort to address increasing crime, the Department has established Geographical Command; improved the Compstat process; adopted Intelligence-Led Policing; and created the Responsive Intelligence Division that has a full-time crime analyst and a proactive Street Crimes Unit; along with other intentional strategies. The Department has sent employees to similar sized agencies in Texas to identify the best practices they use to combat crime. In addition, APD obtained accreditation for another four years with the desire to be intentional about reducing crime in 2016. The Department is committed to the safety of all citizens, while working aggressively through the Abilene Neighborhood Initiative to engage those citizens in a partnership to address all quality of life issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stan Standridge

Chief of Police

Abilene Police Department



APD'S Value Statements

The articulated values of the Abilene Police Department that serve to support the Department's mission are:

The Department must be willing to involve the community in all aspects to enhance the quality of life in the community.

The Department is committed to maintaining the highest levels of integrity and professionalism in all its operations.

The Department will continue to develop a diverse work force that is reflective of the neighborhoods and community it serves.

The Department will actively seek the input and involvement of all employees in matters that impact job performance and will manage the organization in a manner in which will enhance employee job satisfaction and effectiveness.

The Department will be sensitive to neighborhood needs, collaborating with the neighborhoods to solve crime problems.

The Department will respond to criminal behavior with vigorous law enforcement and aggressive prevention programs.



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Our Oath of Office



I do solemnly swear, that I will faithfully execute the duties of the Abilene Police Department, of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God.



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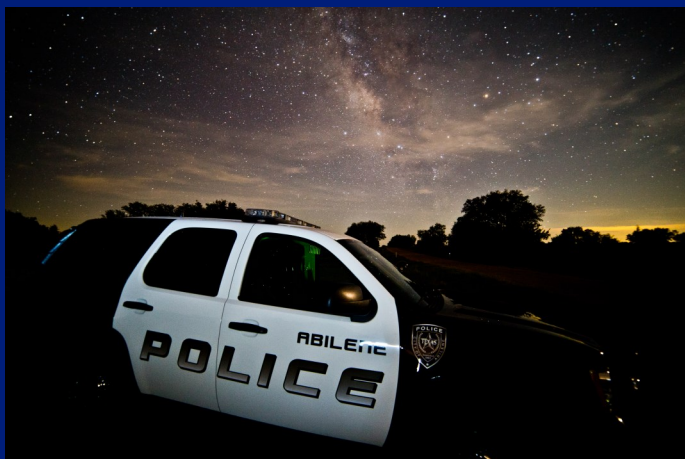
The Law Enforcement Officer's Code of Ethics

"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice."

"I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule, develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty."

"I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities."

"I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... Law Enforcement."





Significant Accomplishments in 2015

- The Department completed the full transition to WatchGuard for all in-car video systems. WatchGuard replaced the COBAN System which was installed in 2010.
- The VINCIBLE initiative was created by APD and fully adopted by the Texas Police Chiefs Association. The four cornerstones of the VINCIBLE initiative are: Watch Your Speed, Wear Your Seatbelt, Stay Fit, Wear Your Armor. This program seeks to reduce preventable police line of duty injuries and deaths across the state. Once per work week during briefing, officers receive training about life-saving tactics and techniques.

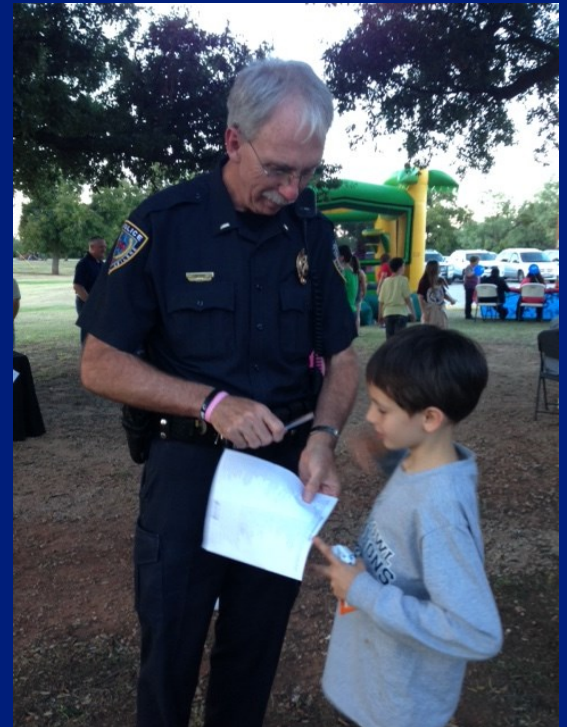


- APD hosted an Open Carry Forum designed to inform the public regarding the Open Carry Law that took effect January 1, 2016. APD also implemented a formal policy providing officers guidance during interactions with citizens lawfully carrying firearms.
- The migration to an updated radio system began in 2015. The first phase will be the replacement of end-of-life portable radios for public safety followed by mobile radios. Additional phases will see the replacement of all city communication equipment including non-public safety radios and communications infrastructure.
- The Department transitioned management of the alarm permit system to a private vendor. This arrangement allows a third party to process the registrations, renewals, and delinquencies related to alarm permitting. These tasks previously required a full time employee. This contract with PM AM allowed the Department to outsource these tasks while maintaining a 75% recovery of revenue.
- APD received zero demerits during the annual audit conducted by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. This audit examines departmental training practices along with training records to ensure they are compliant with state law.
- The Department received re-recognition from the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA). The TPCA founded the program and currently requires compliance with 166 Best Practices. Re-Recognition for Abilene included a complete check of all 166 files to include an on-site visit to verify and ensure compliance. Assessors spent two days looking at files as well as interviewing personnel. Benefits of the program include consistency and uniformity among agencies, reduced liability and risk mitigation.
- City Council granted an increase in authorized sworn staffing to 216 pursuant to APD's staffing plan and in response to the increase in Abilene's crime rate. The Department estimates it will take three years before reaching authorized strength.



Significant Accomplishments in 2015

- Police Communications Division handled 357,337 calls, of which 105,862 were police calls for service, including 95,274 9-1-1 calls. This is the first time in departmental history we have exceeded 100,000 calls for service in one calendar year. Calls for service were up from 99,775 in 2014, an increase of 6,087 (+6%).
- The Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center completed a full transition to digital forensic interview equipment. The Center's Staff conducted 415 interviews of child abuse victims and obtained full re-accreditation from the National Children's Alliance. Staff also provided training to AISD administrators, principals, counselors, and nurses regarding appropriate child abuse reporting procedures.
- The Special Operations Division arrested 106 felons, 97 misdemeanants, executed 38 search warrants, assisted with 129 other search warrants, performed 67 controlled buys, seized \$17,862 in cash and \$133,220 in narcotics. The division filed 157 cases.
- The Criminal Investigation Division assigned 3,409 cases in 2015. Detectives filed 751 cases with the District Attorney's Office.
- The Patrol and Traffic Divisions investigated 3,358 motor vehicle crashes including 18 crashes causing 19 deaths. Alcohol was a contributing factor in four of the fatalities.
- The Department conducted 26,531 traffic stops, issued 14,356 citations, and made 6,453 arrests in 2015.
- The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) program was delivered 18 times in 2015 to 1,163 citizens. Venues included local educational institutions, banks, churches, hospitals, shopping centers, and mental health facilities.
- The K-9 Unit assisted with 1,005 calls for service resulting in 122 felony arrests and 92 misdemeanor arrests. The unit seized \$1,740 in cash and \$137,550 in illegal narcotics. K-9's performed 65 building searches, recovered 16 firearms, and conducted 37 tracks resulting in 13 arrests.
- The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) made 70 felony and 34 misdemeanor arrests. The unit investigated 280 offenses with minimal leads, filed 64 cases, and executed seven search warrants. SCU also recovered \$118,150 in stolen property.
- The Youth Division assigned 1275 cases, filed 352 cases, made 240 juvenile arrests, handled 333 runaway cases, and worked 204 Interference with Child Custody cases.





2015 SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunity, and Threat)



- The Department's greatest strength continues to be the professional performance and reputation of its employees. The Abilene Police Department is known across the State as having excellent hiring, training and accountability standards.
- Staffing continues to plague the Department and is its greatest weakness. City Council approved 216 sworn in FY 2015, but the Department has struggled to attain 200 with any consistency. Police academies will be hired back-to-back for several years to address these issues, including Class 53 that graduates in April 2016 and Class 54 that starts in January 2017.
- New technology that was purchased in FY 16 will prove to be the Department's greatest strength. With a new Computer Aided Dispatch system, Records Management System, and field reporting, employees will be able to provide more efficient and effective services across all systems. The tentative go-live date is May 2017.
- Increasing crime rates and increasing demands for police services are the greatest threats facing the Department.



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2015 Crime Data & Statistical Review





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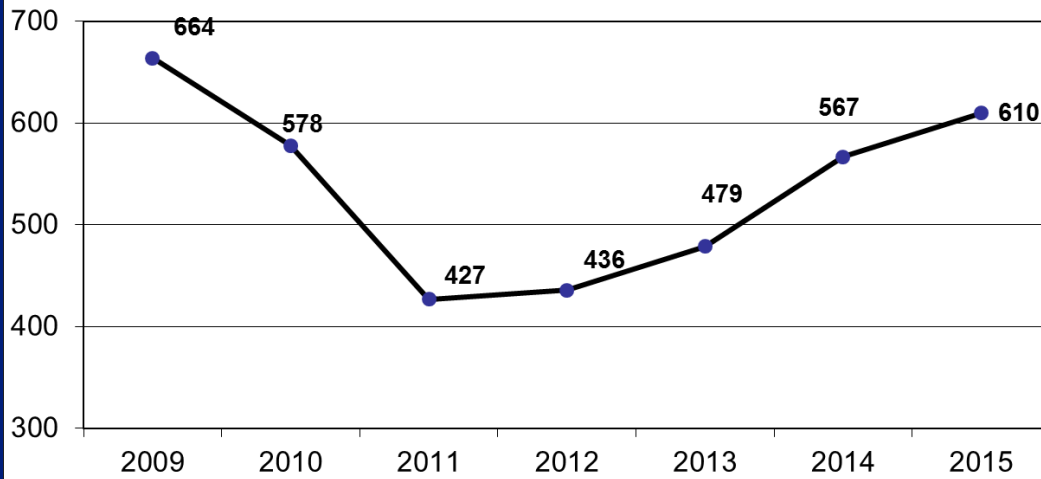
ABILENE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014-2015 CRIME STATISTICS

	2014	2015	% of change
Murder / Homicide	7	7	0
Rape	90	83	-7.8%
Robbery	128	127	-0.8%
Aggravated Assault	342	393	+14.9%
Violent Crime Total	567	610	+7.6%
Burglary	1,095	1169	+6.8%
Theft	3,899	3806	-2.4%
Auto Theft	366	387	+5.7%
Property Crime Total	5,360	5362	+0.03%
UCR PART 1 TOTAL	5,927	5972	+0.8%
Simple Assaults	2,633	2827	+7.4%
Forgery	321	309	-3.7%
Fraud	581	710	+22.2%
Criminal Mischief	1,075	1189	+10.6%
Weapons Offenses	80	116	+45%
Other Sex Offenses	156	147	-5.8%
Drug Abuse	981	936	-4.6%
Driving While Intoxicated	310	273	-11.9%
Public Intoxication	658	601	-8.7%
Disorderly Conduct	249	146	-41.3%
UCR PART 2 TOTAL	7,044	7,254	+3%
UCR TOTAL	12,971	13,226	+1.97%



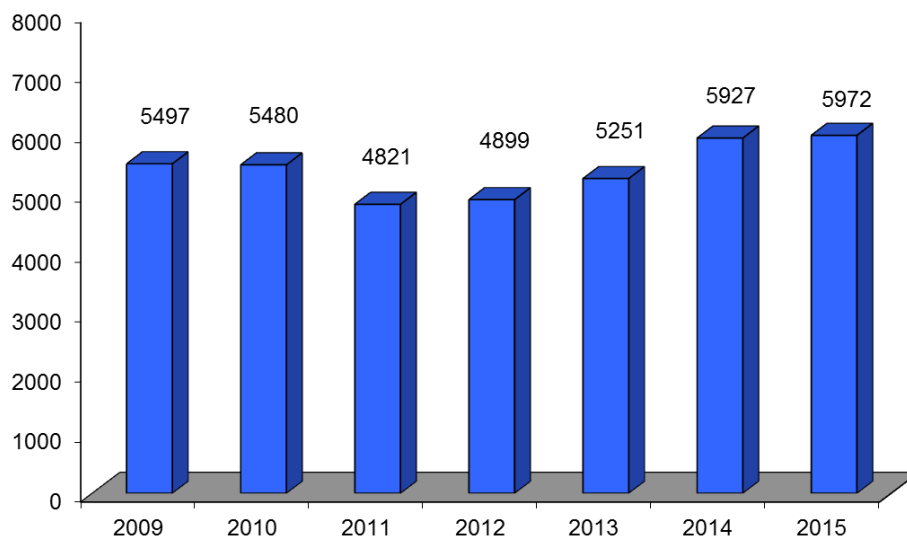
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**Violent Crimes
Seven Year Comparison 2009-2015**



**Includes Murder, Robbery, Forcible Rape, and
Aggravated Assault**

Uniform Crime Report Index 2009-2015

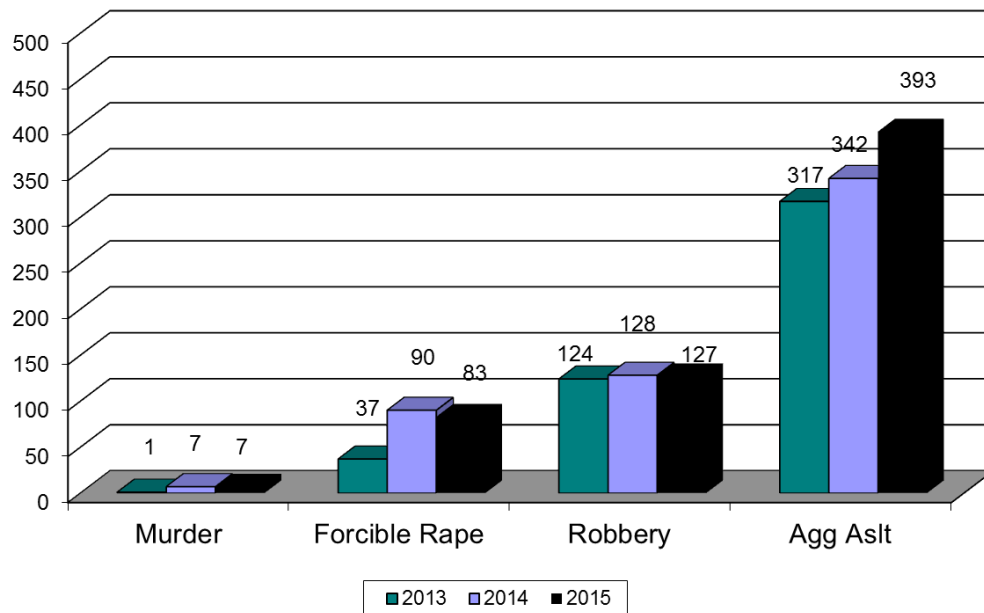


**Includes Murder, Robbery, Forcible Rape, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft,
and Auto Theft**

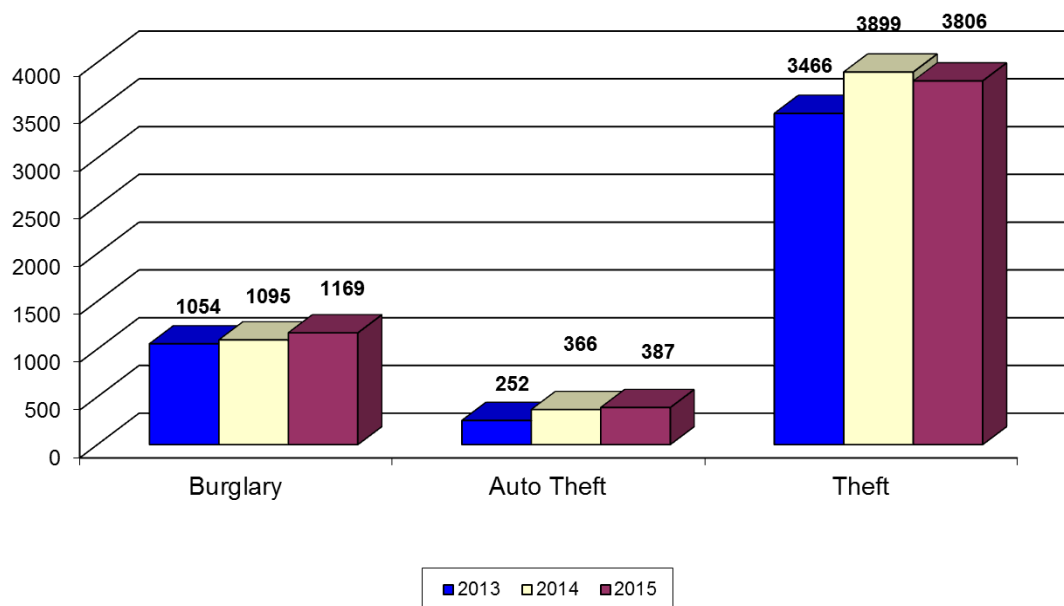


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Violent Crime Comparison



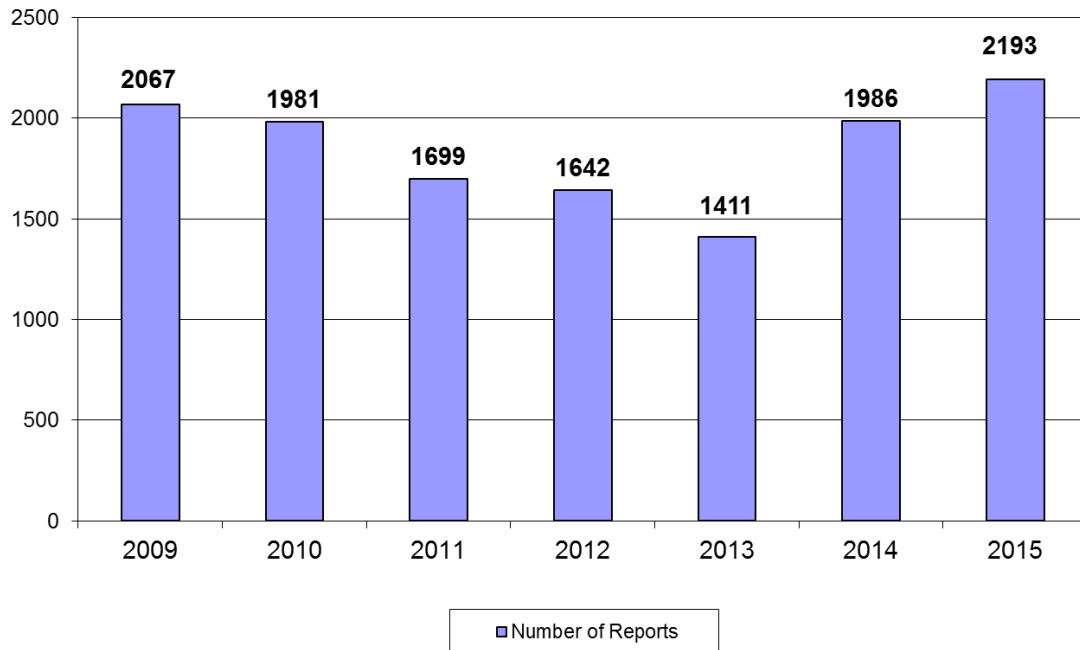
Property Crime Comparison



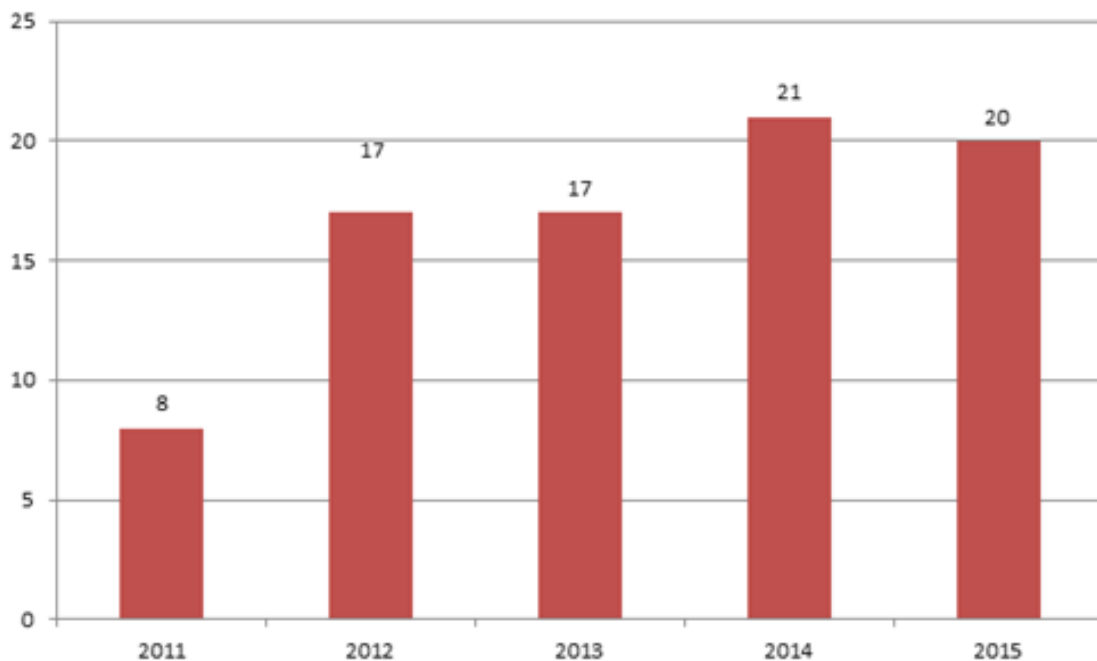


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Domestic Violence 2009-2015



Assaults On Officers





Departmental Goals

- Explore staffing models that facilitate on-duty fitness time for all sworn employees
- Evaluate differential police response, including but not limited to the response to Class C thefts
- Work with vendor to transition to a new CAD/RMS system with a go-live date in 2017
- Work with City Administration to complete a \$1.6M bond project for a new or renovated Records/Property and Evidence building
- Explore a "Citizens on Patrol" Program as a measure to address crime
- Recruit and hire Academy Class 54
- Evaluate organizational effectiveness by assessing unit alignment
- Adopt and deploy body cameras in the Patrol Division
- Implement a Sex Offender Apprehension Program designed to track and hold sex offenders accountable for registration requirements pursuant to state law
- Increase community collaboration to address crime





Complaints

The Department classifies complaints according to the severity of the conduct alleged. Class 1 complaints include, but are not limited to: excessive use of force; criminal activity; serious misconduct; and abuse of authority. Class 2 complaints are typified by allegations of harassment, discourtesy, minor misconduct, and improper police procedures. In 2015, the Department investigated the following number of complaints, resulting in discipline ranging from indefinite suspension to verbal counseling. As stated previously, the Department answered 105,862 calls for service, conducted 22,652 traffic stops, and made 6,453 arrests. During the same time, the Department only received 48 complaints.

- Class 1 Complaints: 8
- Class 2 Complaints: 40
- Biased Based Policing Complaints: 5 (included above)





2015 SWAT Callouts



The SWAT Team was utilized ten times in 2015. Three calls regarded barricaded subjects and seven were high-risk warrants. Three of the warrants were for CID, one for RID, one for Fraud and two for outside agencies. The following pages contain the call synopses for 2015.



2015 SWAT Callouts

2/11/15: 800 East Highway 80-Warrant Service

Detectives with CID obtained an arrest warrant for an aggravated assault suspect who was later charged with murder. CID obtained information that the suspect was going to a local motel. The SWAT team positioned itself in the adjacent room to arrest the suspect when he arrived. The suspect arrived as planned and was arrested.



3/16/15: 300 College Barricaded Suspect

Patrol responded to a shooting at this location. The suspect had shot his girlfriend and then was observed entering the residence. On arrival Patrol established a perimeter and called for SWAT. SWAT attempted to contact the suspect and was not successful. The Bearcat was utilized by the team to provide cover while attempting to contact the suspect. The team entered the residence to search for the suspect. The suspect was not in the residence.

3/27/15: 5600 Red Hawk Circle-Warrant Service

Detectives with CID were investigating a series of aggravated robberies. The investigation led to a suspect located at this residence. Due to the weapon used in the robberies and the criminal history of the suspect, it was decided to use SWAT to serve the search and arrest warrant. The team utilized the Bearcat to transport the team to the location and provide cover for the team if needed. An explosive breach was utilized to gain entry into the residence. The team entered the residence and took the suspect into custody without incident.

3/28/15: 800 S. Alameda-Warrant Service

Detectives with CID were investigating a drive-by shooting that occurred earlier in the day. They obtained information that the weapons used during the incident were located at this residence. Due to the nature of the crime and not knowing if the subjects at this residence were involved in the shooting, the SWAT team was utilized to serve the warrant. The Bearcat transported the team and provided cover during the warrant service. The team entered the residence and secured it for CID without incident.



2015 SWAT Callouts-Continued

3/29/15: 600 Beauregard, Rotan, TX-Warrant Service

The Fisher County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the SWAT team to execute a search warrant on a known drug house. They conducted a traffic stop and recovered cocaine that had been purchased at this residence which they knew to be utilized for large scale narcotics trafficking. The residence had cameras and an unknown number of suspects. Fisher County did not have sufficient personnel to conduct the warrant. The team used the Bearcat to breach the doors on the residence. The residence was secured for the Sheriff's Office and released to them without incident.

7/4/15: 100 Burnett Street, Merkel, TX-Barricaded Suspect:

Merkel PD responded to a domestic disturbance at this residence. The suspect had beaten his girl friend with a baseball bat and was inside the residence with a young child. The suspect was known to have guns. Before negotiations could begin the suspect exited the house with a handgun and then shot himself in the head. The residence was entered and the child was located unharmed. The scene was released to Merkel PD.

8/13/15: 2800 South 41st-Warrant Service

Agents with RID were investigating an aggravated robbery and identified a suspect that was located at the apartment. Due to the nature of the crime, the criminal history of the suspect and the fact that the apartment was on the second floor, it was decided to use SWAT to execute the warrant. The team moved to the location in the Bearcat and utilized an explosive breach to enter the apartment. The occupants of the apartment were apprehended and the scene was released to RID.





2015 SWAT Callouts-Continued



10/9/15: 500 Thornton, Merkel, TX-Warrant Service

The Office of Inspector General for TDCJ requested the assistance of the SWAT team to execute a search warrant on a prison guard and her husband who were transporting and selling drugs in a local prison. One of them was a former inmate and Barrio Azteca member. They wanted to arrest both suspects at the same time at two different locations. There was also a small child at the residence. The SWAT team traveled to Merkel in the Bearcat and executed the warrant. The suspect was taken into custody outside his residence without incident.

10/23/15: 2500 Woodridge-Barricaded Suspect

The SWAT Team responded to a suicidal veteran who made threats to harm himself. After a brief standoff, he was taken into protective custody and transported for treatment.

12/3/15: 700 Sycamore-Warrant Service

Detectives with the Fraud unit obtained a warrant for several individuals at this location. During their investigation they determined that there had been calls for service of shots fired at this location and that some of the individuals at this location were possible suspects in drive-by shootings. The SWAT team was requested to serve the search warrant. The suspects were taken into custody without incident.



2015 Bomb Squad Callouts

The Abilene Police Department Bomb Squad is a regional asset responsible for 21 counties surrounding and including Taylor County. For the calendar year 2015, APD's Bomb Squad responded to 10 calls for service. Seven calls occurred outside of the Abilene City Limits. The calls for service ranged from joint SWAT responses, aged military ordinance, suspicious packages, commercial explosive recovery, and assisting other agencies.



One instance required the Bomb Squad to respond to a suspicious package in the parking garage of the Wells Fargo Building in San Angelo. The suspect, who was later arrested by San Angelo PD, placed a hoax device in the driveway of the parking garage. The call resulted in a significant portion of downtown San Angelo being closed. APD's Bomb Squad was able to render the device safe and released the scene to San Angelo PD.

The Bomb Squad also responded to a call near a residence in south Abilene where it appeared C-4 had been placed near the curb in a residential area. Bomb Squad members were able to respond and identify the device as an explosive training aid stolen from a company out of state.

Another call involved a landmine in Early, Texas. This call resulted in the location and safe disposal of a landmine discovered in a pile of scrap metal.





2015 Departmental Training



In 2015, the APD Training Division completed Academy Class 52. Nine officers graduated from an applicant pool numbering 221. Class 52 received 987 hours of TCOLE training and achieved a 100% pass rate on the TCOLE exam.

In addition, the division provided 17 classes, which were attended by 245 APD students and 18 students from external agencies. These classes represented 829 hours of training. Topics included Active Shooter Response, SWAT Emergency Medical, Firearms Training, Use of Force/Defensive Tactics, Legal Update for 84th Legislative Session, and intermediate classes for Spanish, Missing or Exploited Children, and Assault/Family Violence.





2015 Event Review Board Statistics

APD engaged in 22 pursuits, which is an increase of 8 pursuits when compared with 2014. Of the 22 pursuits, 19 were found to have been authorized pursuits, meaning they were initiated within the guidelines of current policy and procedures. Three pursuits were not authorized under policy.

Between January 1st and December 31, 2015, there were 57 documented use-of-force incidents. Of these incidents, two violated departmental policy: a negligent TASER discharge and the use of the carotid restraint in another incident. During 2015, the TASER was the most used force option. It was utilized 26 times, comprising 46% of all force used by the Department. OC Spray was the next most utilized force option with 25 incidents, representing 44% of all force used by the Department. Firearms were used 2 times (4%) and hard empty hands/impact weapons were used 2 times (4%). Stop sticks were deployed in one instance (2%). No K-9 bites were reported. Twenty officers were assaulted in 2015.





Tier 1 Partial Exemption Biased Based Policing Report

The Department utilizes the partial racial profiling report exemption because our patrol vehicles are equipped with video and audio equipment, and we maintain videos for a minimum of 90 days. The Department has a detailed written policy that strictly prohibits Biased Based Policing.

Motor Vehicle Biased Based Policing Information

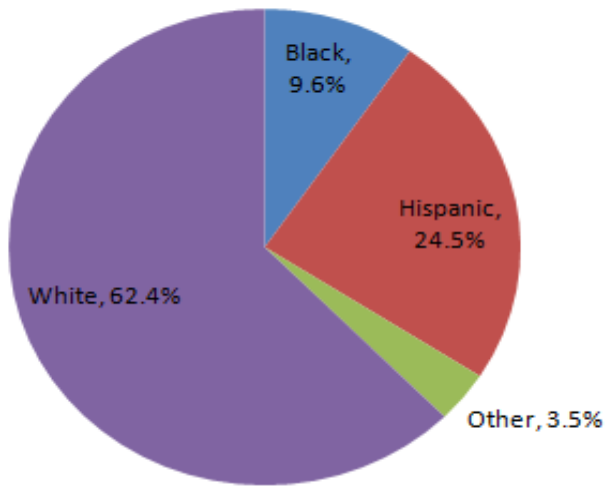
Number of motor vehicle stops:	Race or ethnicity known prior to stop?
8,116 citation only	2,118 Yes
961 arrest only	<u>20,534</u> No
89 both arrest and citation	22,652 Total
<u>13,486</u> verbal warning	
22,652 total	
	Search conducted?
	1,771 Yes
	<u>20,881</u> No
	22,652 Total
	Was search consensual?
	260 Yes
	<u>1,511</u> No
	1,771 Total



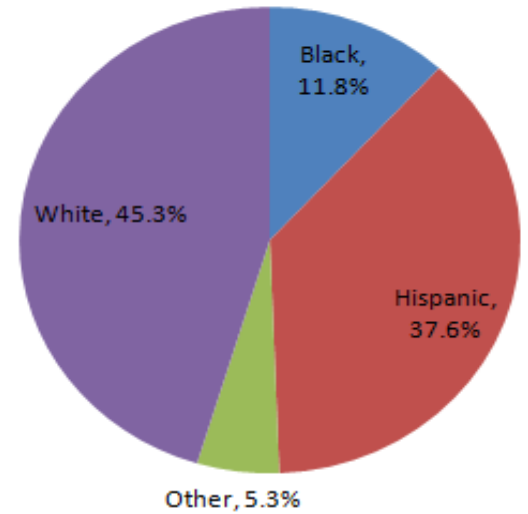


Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

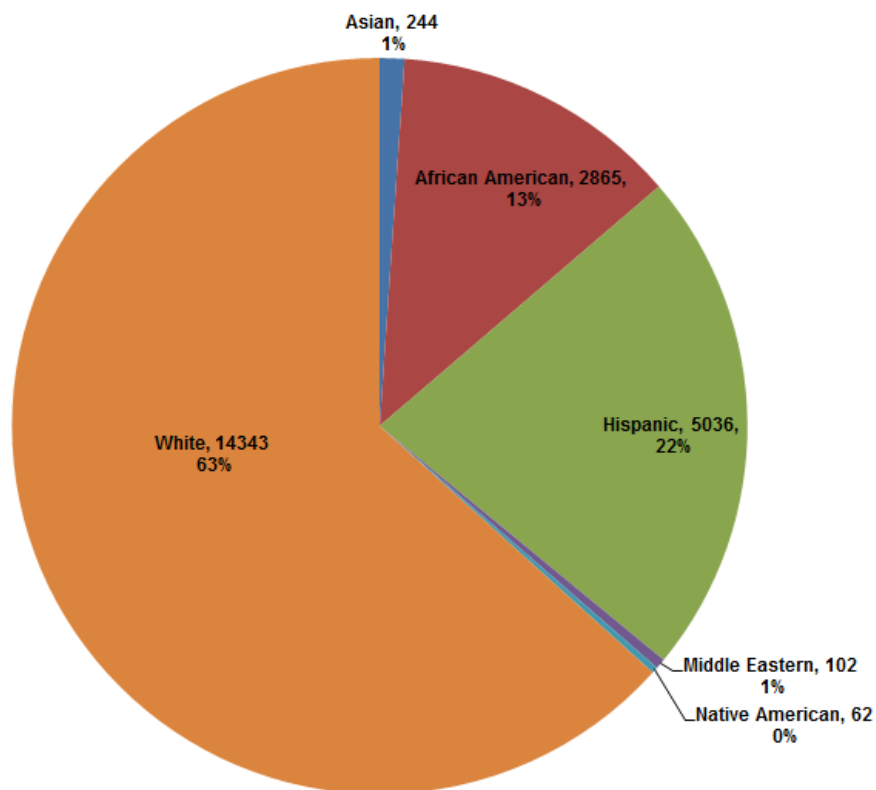
Abilene Demographics



Texas Demographics



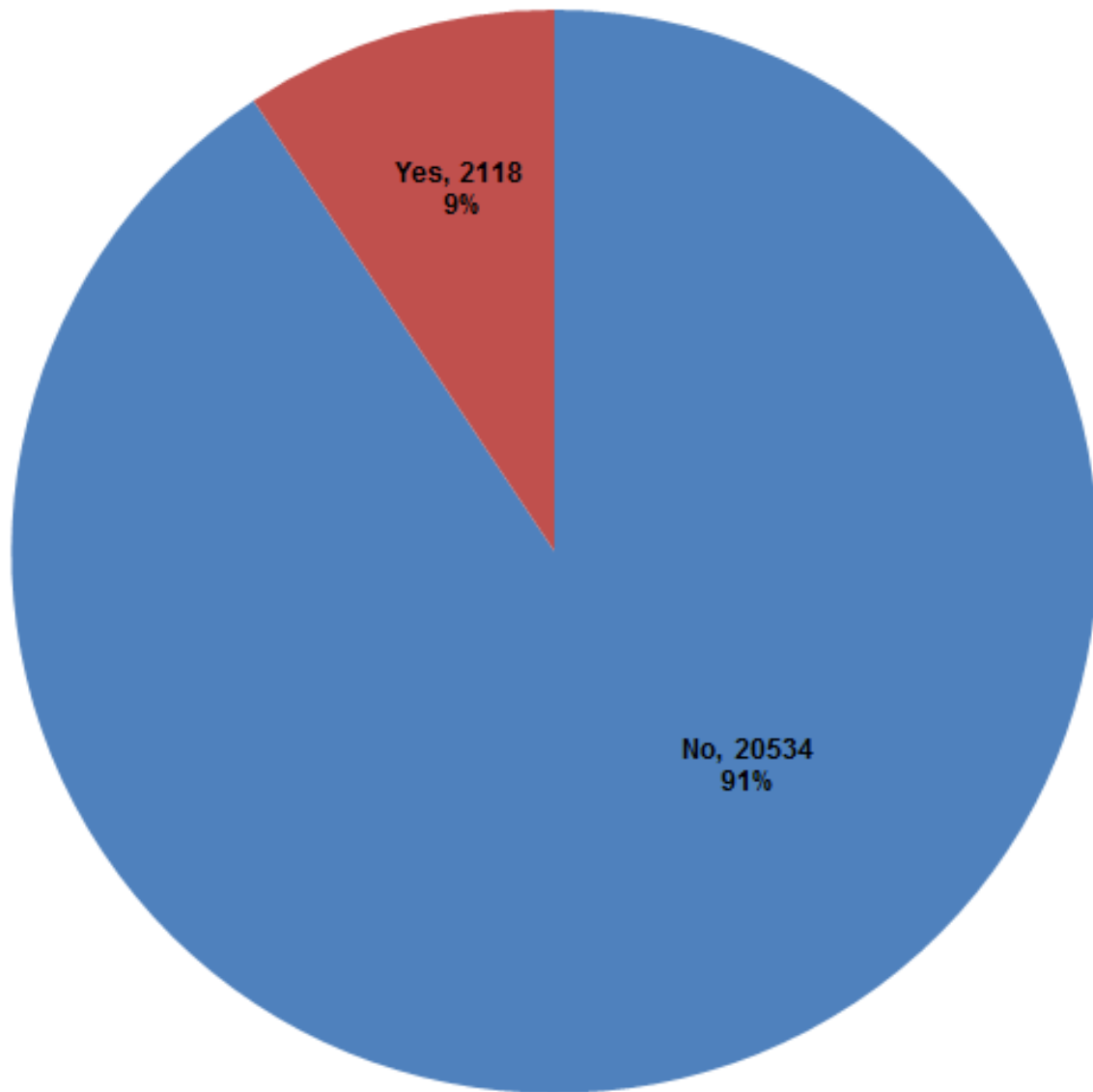
Officer Initiated Contacts by Race
2015





Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

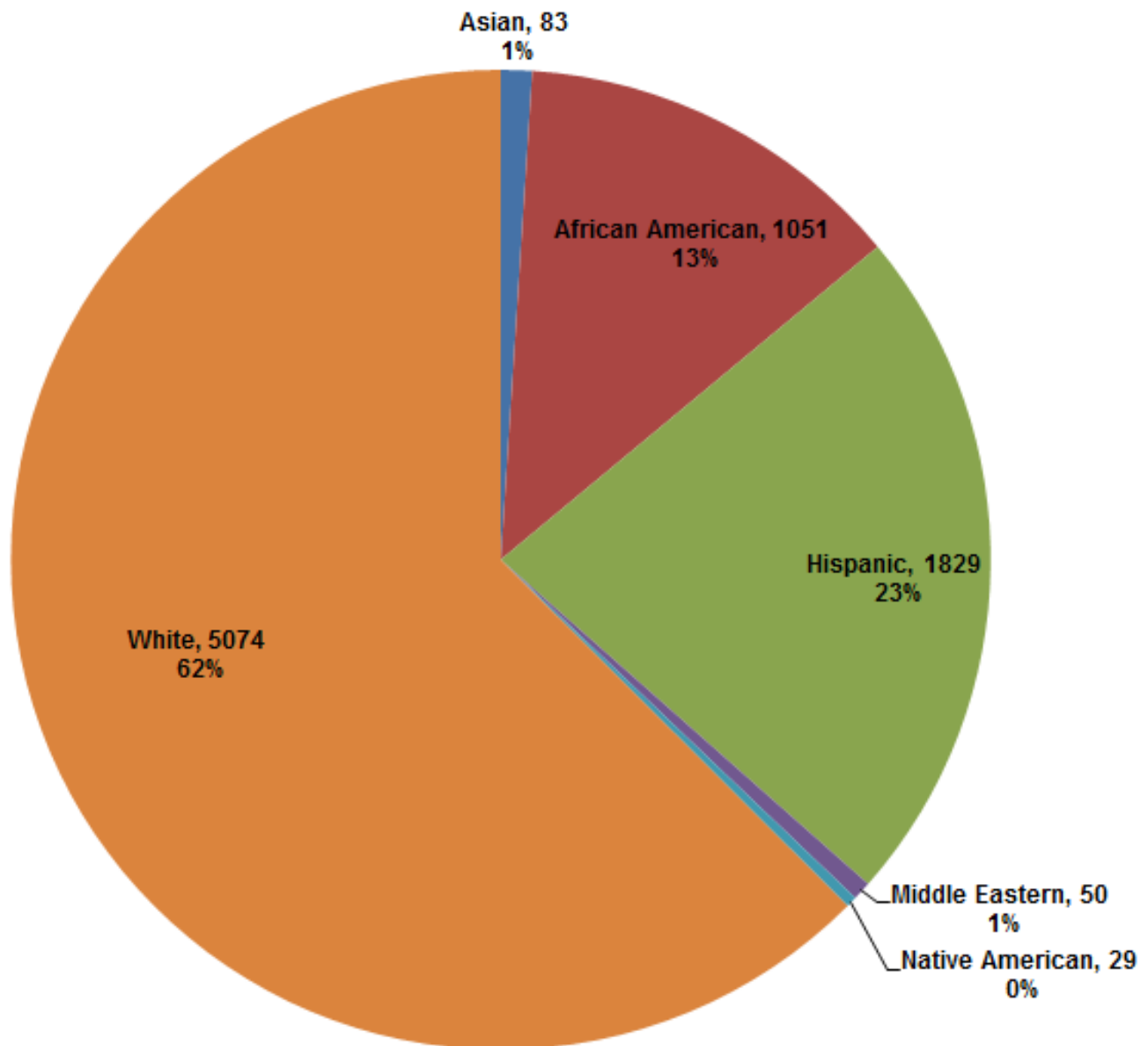
Race Known Prior to Stop 2015





Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Cited Traffic Stops by Race
2015

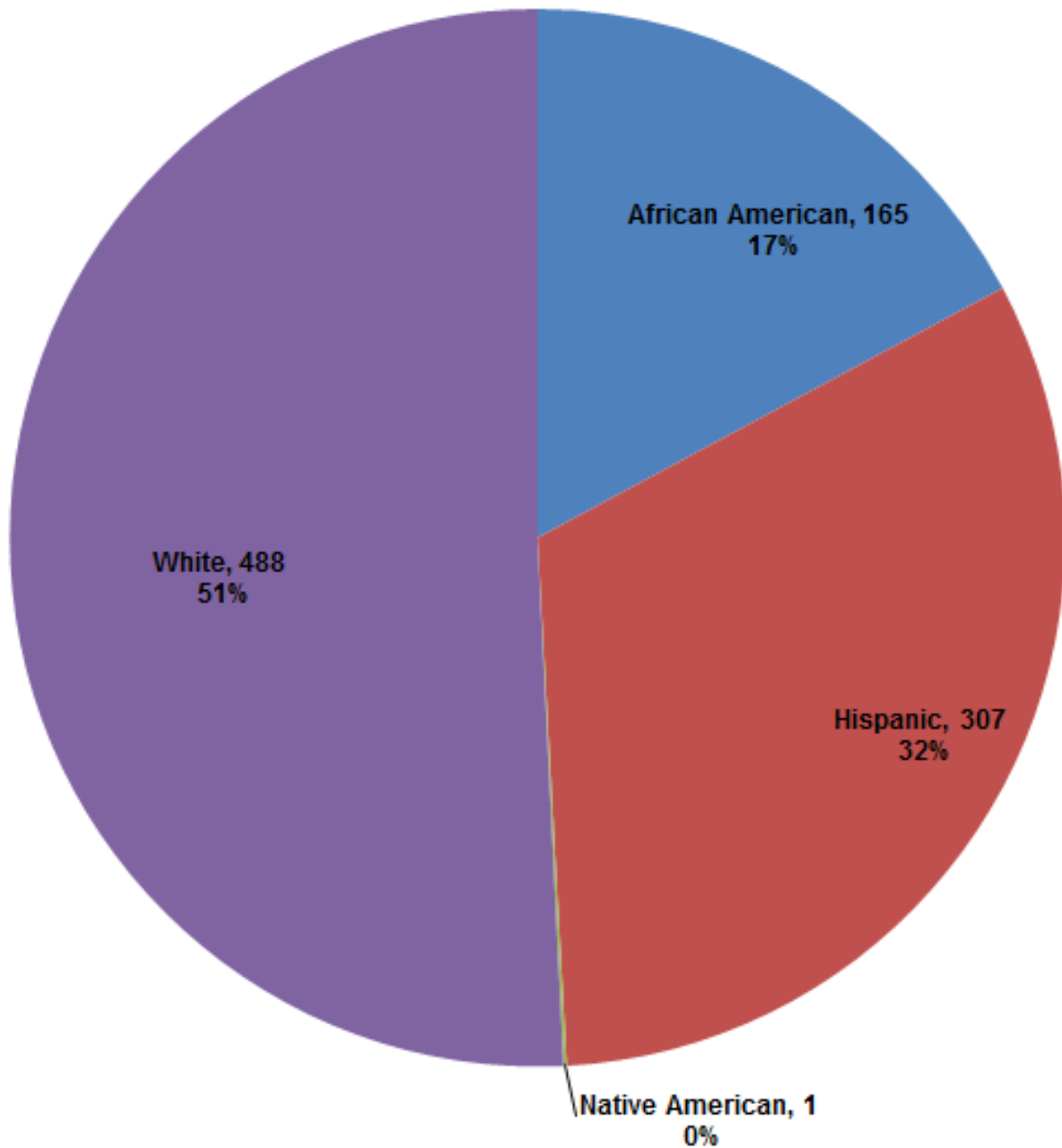




Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Arrests by Race

2015

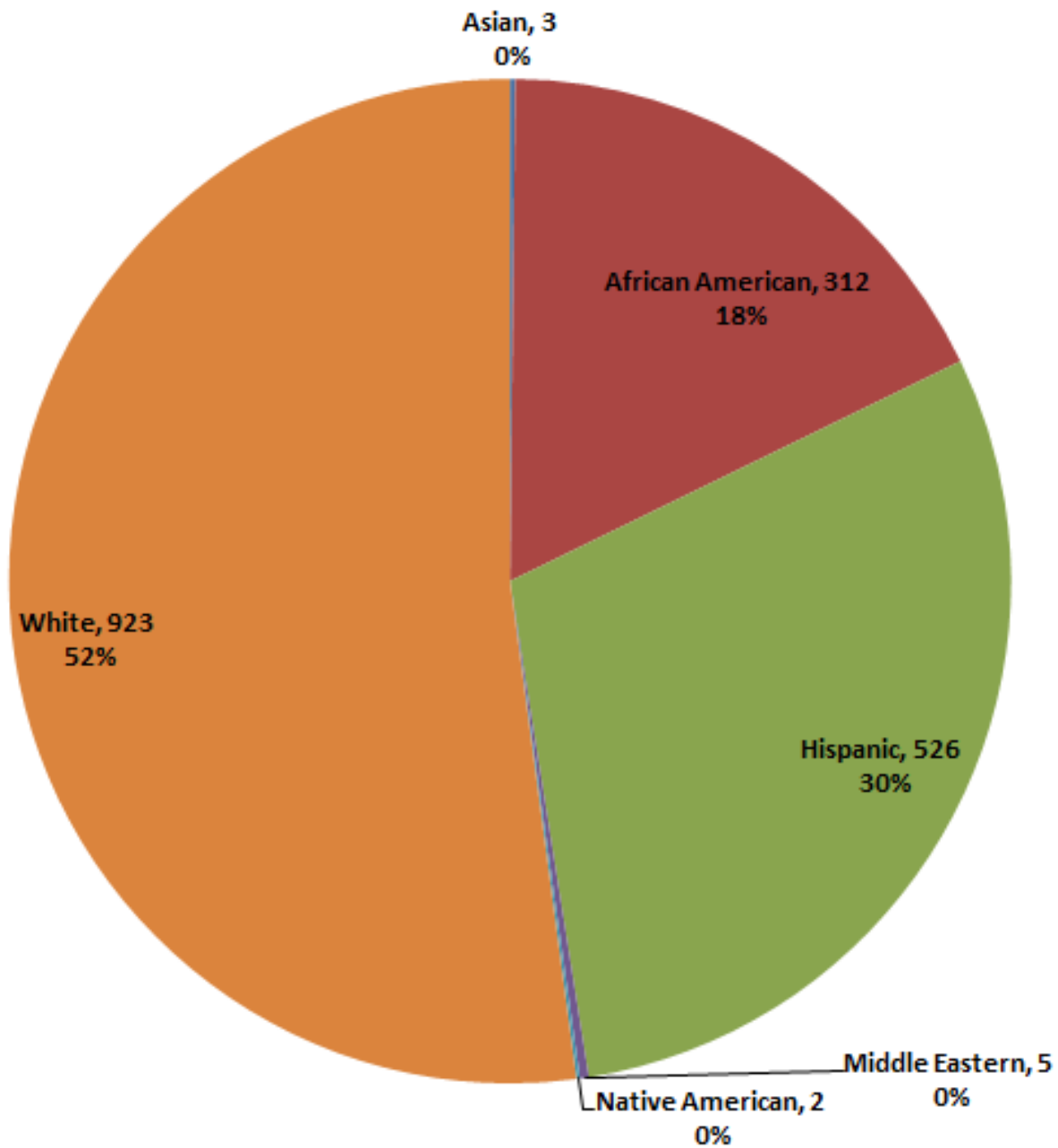




Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Contacts Searched by Race

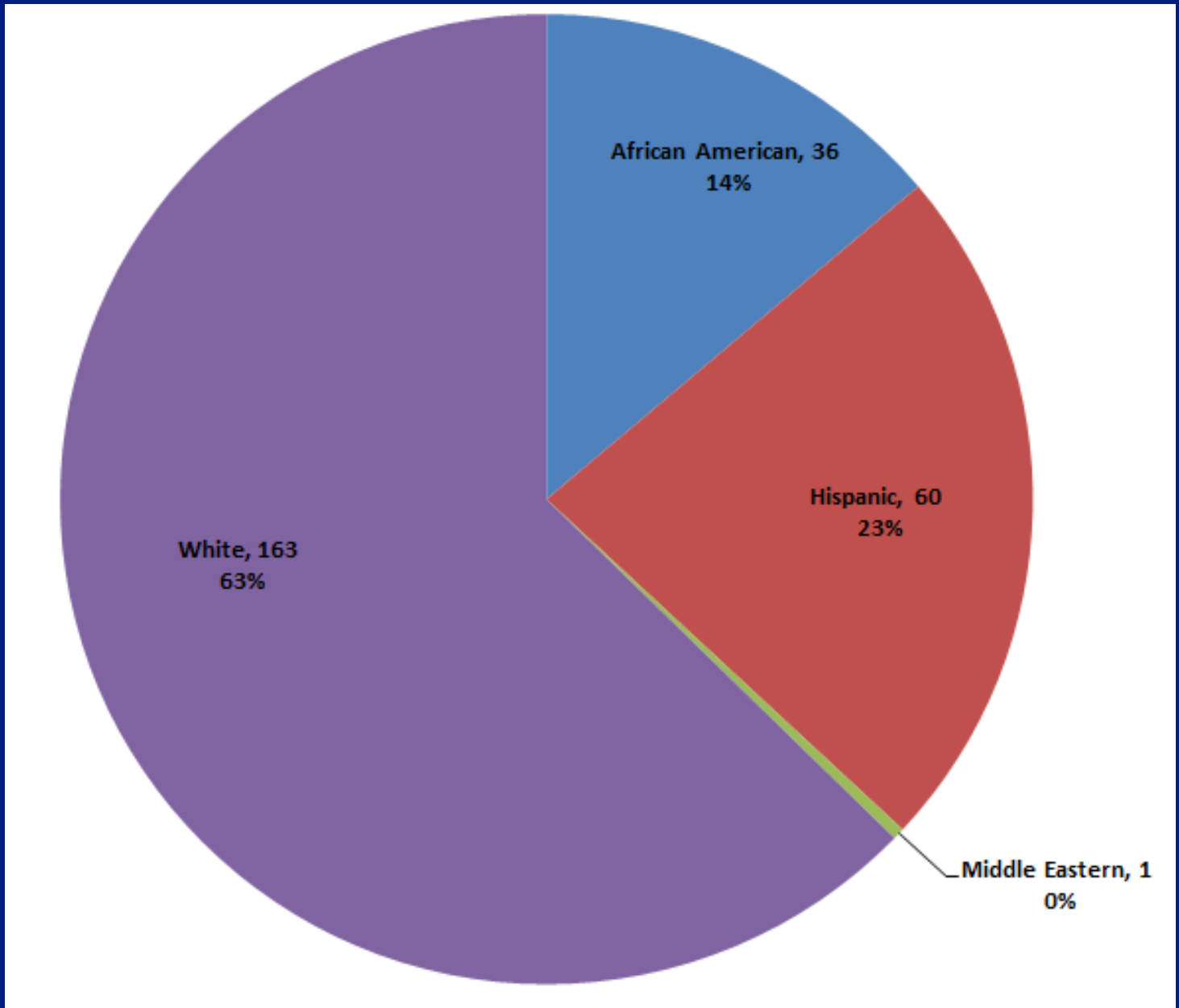
2015





Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Consensual Searches by Race 2015

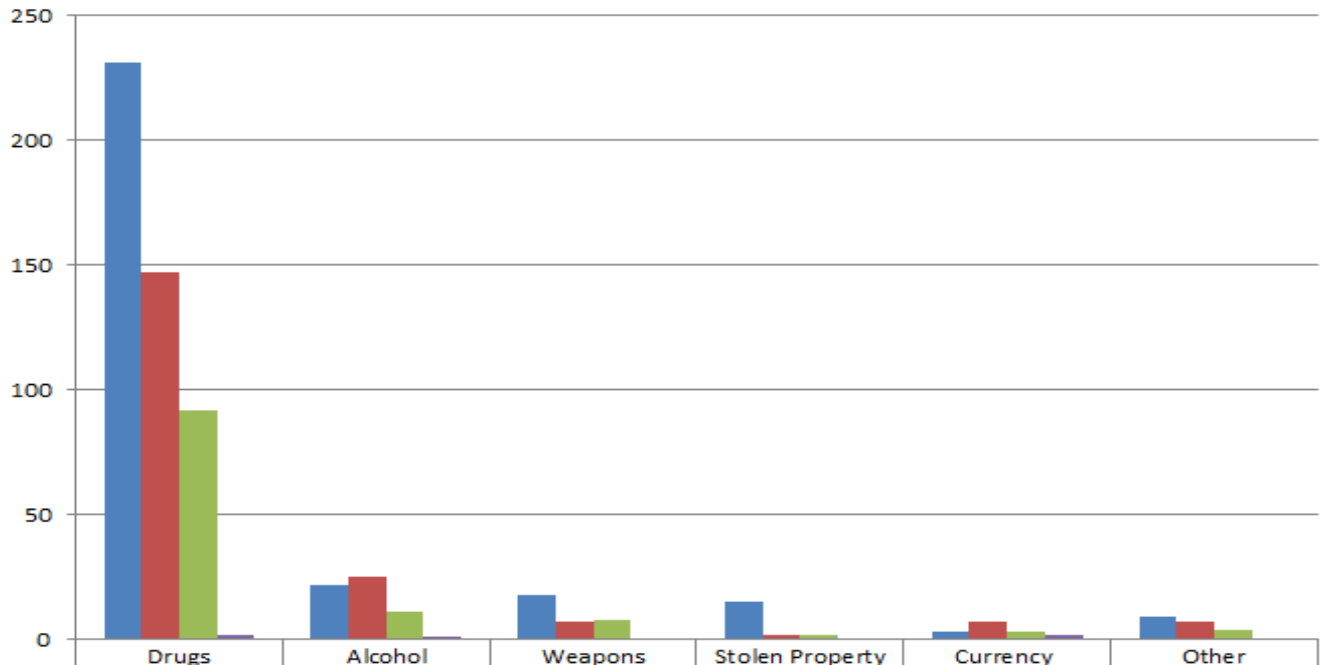




Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Contraband by Race

2015





Biased Based Policing Report Graphics

Results from Contact Stops

2015

Contacts for 2015:

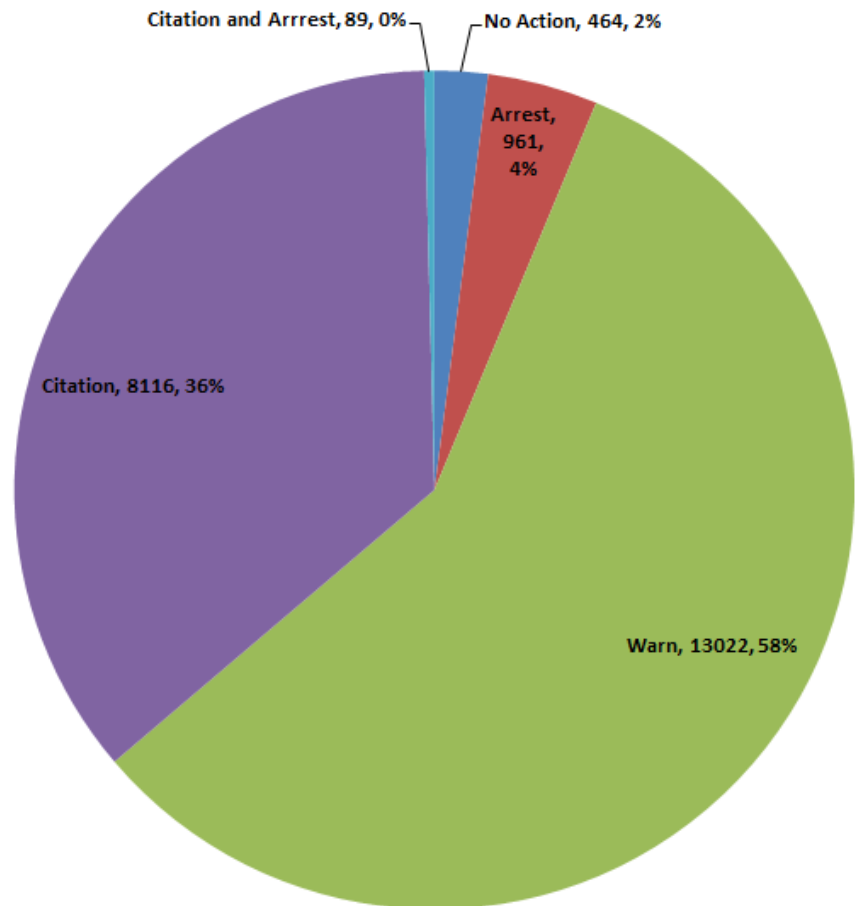
22,652 Individuals

Contacts were:

Males	13,603 (60%)
Females	8,949 (39.5%)
Not Given	100 (0.5%)

Why they were contacted:

Traffic Code Violation	20703 (91%)
Suspicious Activity	1247 (6%)
City Code Violation	542 (2%)
Penal Code Violation	160 (1%)





HONOR ★ SERVICE ★ VALOR ★ DUTY

ABILENE POLICE DEPARTMENT